

## MIDWAY, WASATCH COUNTY, UTAH

Midway, Utah, population 803, can be located on a map or world globe at  $40^{\circ}31'$  North latitude  $111^{\circ}29'$  West longitude. It is a small town occupying the northwest corner of the Wasatch Valley in Wasatch County, just three miles west of Heber, the county seat. The main arteries leading out of Wasatch valley are three in number; one, U. S. Highway 40 running southeast which is the main highway to the Uintah Basin and points east; two, U. S. Highway 189 leaves the valley to the south and is the connecting line with Provo, Utah, 28 miles southwest; and three, U. S. Highway 40, running northwest from Heber, which is the main highway to Salt Lake City, Utah just 55 miles distance from Wasatch Valley.

Midway is 5569 feet in elevation and is situated close to a very rich mining district and also a fairly good agricultural area. The population is composed of heterogeneous elements. The main nationality being Swiss or of Swiss extraction and evidence of this fact can be observed in the architecture of some of the small dairy farms, of which the valley has many.

Many of the Swiss people came to this town as converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Most of the Swiss people say they chose Midway as their new home because of its resemblance to the small town in which they lived in Switzerland. There are people of English, Swiss, Irish, German, Dutch, Scotch, and Swedish extraction living harmoniously in this small town.

The geographical features in and around the town are most unique. This is the home of swimming resorts due to the natural springs of hot water that emerge out of the crust of the earth and form large crater-like mounds of trav-

erine and the crater-like mounds dot the landscape in many directions. This "pot-rock" is a porous, spongy looking rock that is an excellent building material, and many of the older homes, barns, and store buildings are built of this material. During the depression years of the early 1930's the W. P. A. built a beautiful civic building out of this material. The building houses the U. S. Post Office, club rooms for civic organizations, a gymnasium that is also used for community parties and dances, and which is also equipped with a stage for the production of plays and operettas that are produced by the towns people. On the east side of the town a large mound raises from the floor of the valley to an elevation of 300 feet. It has been named "Memorial Hill" by the citizens of Wasatch County, and a road has been built to the summit, on which has been erected a monument of those men who served their country in World War I.

There are many mountain peaks to the west and north of the town whose towering summits are clad in snow at least nine months of the year. These mountains are dotted with old tunnels and shafts which were blasted out of the rock by prospectors in search of gold and silver ores. Within these same mountains rich deposits of the precious metals have been found and many of the men of Midway are employed in these mines. Some of the men work in the mines during the winter months and engage in farming during the summer and fall months.

One of these old mining tunnels is the source of power for the town. A large stream of water emerges from the tunnel, whose portal is high above the town, this water is diverted through a pipe line and is the source of power for generating the electricity for the town and part of Heber. The power company is owned by the towns in the county, and besides furnishing power to the towns it is also a source of revenue for the running of the individual municipalities.

Deer Creek Reservoir is three miles south of Midway, the reservoir is fed by the waters of the Provo River. The citizens of Midway spend many leisure hours fishing on the reservoir and in the river which runs past the town just a short distance from the east city limits. The body of water created by the reservoir is too small to have any effect on the climate in the area, but the range of mountains with their many canyons have a tremendous effect on the type of climate enjoyed by the people. The winter is marked by heavy snow falls most winters, although some years the fall is very light, the average winter will find from three to four feet of snow covering the floor of the valley. In summer cool breezes emanate from the canyons making for ideal weather throughout the summer months. The temperature during the summer days very seldom surpasses 90°F, and the evenings and nights are quite cool, making for ideal conditions for sleeping.

The soil of the area is a transported soil being settled over the travertine beds that compose the floor of the area. In some sections of the town the soil is three to four feet in thickness, and in other sections the travertine is exposed to the surface or has a little as three inches of soil covering it. The farms in this area vary in size but the average size is 45 acres. Barley, wheat, and oats are the three major grain crops and the yields differ on different sections of the land. The average yield for barley is 70 to 80 bushels to the acre, and the average yield for oats is 95 to 100 bushels per acre. Good hay crops are produced with alfalfa and timothy being the dominant species grown. The yield in hay also varies in the different sections in the area. The hay fields in the river bottoms and those on the foothills yield from 5 to 7 tons per acre per year, that is with two cuttings per year. The growing season is too short to allow more than two cuttings each season except on very rare occasions. Peas are also

a commercial crop on the farms of the community. The annual yield of peas is three tons shelled peas per acre. The peas are transported to Heber, Utah where they are processed and canned by the Woods Cross Canning Company. This cannery also employs people from the community during the canning season.

Approximately 75% of the population is engaged in dairy farming, 15% are engaged in mining and industry. Geneva Steel Company of Orem, Utah employs men from this community, who commute to work daily. The mines in the area (Park City Mining District) also offers a means of livelihood to men in the area. The remaining 10% are engaged in some sort of business enterprise, grocery stores, clothing stores, automobile garages and service stations, truck-freight lines, and swimming resorts offer employment to others besides the people who own and operate them.

The main occupation, as stated before, is dairy farming. The average size dairy herd is 20 cows, although there are some herds of 50 cows, herds of 10 to 15 cows are the rule. The farms are all modern dairy farms. The machinery used is of the latest design, and the milking barns and milk-houses are equipped with the latest models of milkers, water fountains, feed bins, and stanchions. The milk-houses are equipped with modern cooling and storage facilities. The milk produced by the farms in the valley is gathered by independent truckers and is taken into Salt Lake City and distributed to the many dairies for processing and redistribution to consumers throughout the state.

Midway has but one school, an elementary school that enrolls pupils from grade one through grade six. The building is rather old and was constructed of the "pot rock" so much in evidence here in the community. It is a two story building containing seven classrooms, a modern kitchen and lunch-room which is used daily for the serving of hot lunches to all the children who care to partake of the lunches. There are two rest rooms, one for girls and one for boys.

The principal has a spacious office on the second floor. The students of the school use the community building for all their indoor recreation. The school is surrounded by a large playground equipped with swings, slides, giant strides, and teeter-totters for the smaller children. There is a regulation softball diamond and tennis court for the use of all the students. Students of high school age are transported by modern bus to a consolidated high school in Heber, Wasatch High School.

Approximately 90% of the citizens of the community are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The town is divided into two wards; Midway First Ward, and Midway Second Ward, Wasatch Stake. The people have very much in common due to the almost unanimous religious faith, and cooperation between the various clubs and civic organizations is the rule instead of the exception. Each year a Swiss Festival is celebrated by the community and many exhibits show the handicraft and cultural accomplishments of the people. The town boasts many artists, writers, and skilled artisans and their work is an inspiration to all those who come in contact with it. The small percentage of people who are not of the Mormon faith belong to the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopalian faiths, but they do not have a chapel in the community.

The higher needs of the people seem to be pretty well taken care of. Their religious needs are taken care of by the two L. D. S. Wards. The cultural needs are taken care of by the schools in the county which offer many night classes for adults, and by the universities in Provo and Salt Lake City who offer extension courses and resident courses for those who desire them. The civic clubs have many guest lecturers throughout the year and most all the citizens attend these functions.

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